

MAURITANIA

a. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
I. TERRITORIAL SEA	May 62	Decree 62-110	6nm	
	Jan 67	Law 67-023	12nm	
	Jul 72	Law	30nm	
	Feb 78	Law 78,043: Code of the Merchant Marine & Maritime Fisheries	70nm	Recognized innocent passage "so long as it does not disturb the peace, order, or security."
	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	12nm	Law 78,043 is specifically abrogated.
II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Jan 67	Law 67-023		Establishes a single straight baseline, from Cap Blanc to Cap Timiris; see LIS No. 8.
	Feb 78	Law 78,043		Reiterated straight baseline of Law 67-023. These claims are not recognized by the U.S.
	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120		Reiterates 1967 baseline. These claims are not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested claims in 1990 and conducted operational assertions from 1981 to 1994 (overflights).
III. CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	24nm	
IV. CONTINENTAL SHELF	Jan 62	Law 62-038	200m	
	Jul 71	Law 71-93	1958 DEF	
	Feb 78	Law 78,043	CM/ 200nm	Claimed exclusive jurisdiction to explore and exploit.
	Aug 88	Ordinance 88-120	CM/ 200nm	
V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Jul 63	Code of the Merchant Marine & Maritime Fishing	12nm	Fishing zone.
	Jul 72	Law	30nm	Territorial sea also claimed to be fishing zone.
	Feb 78	Law 78-043	200nm	EEZ and fishing zone: provided that freedoms of navigation and overflight shall not be restricted unless they adversely affect jurisdiction over scientific research, installations/devices, preservation of the environment, or the security of the state.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
VII. MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Apr 76	Agreement		Continental shelf boundary agreement with Morocco signed.
	Nov 76	Agreement		Boundary agreement with Morocco EIF.
VIII. LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed.
	Aug 94			Signed Part XI Agreement, subject to ratification.

b. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

1. STRAIGHT BASELINES

A. LEGISLATION. Following is an extract from Ordinance 88-120 of 31 August 1988 delineating the straight baseline for Mauritania:

Article 1: The territorial sea of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania extends to a breadth of 12 nautical miles measured from the following baselines:

- (a) A straight baseline drawn between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris; and
- (b) The low-water line everywhere else.

The waters located on the landward side of the baseline form part of the internal waters of the state.

B. ANALYSIS The following analysis of the Albanian straight baseline system is extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 8, "Straight Baselines: Mauritania" published by the Office of Ocean Affairs, Department of State.

The straight baseline measures approximately 89 nautical miles in length and it includes with Mauritanian internal waters approximately 60 percent of the very shallow Banc d'Arguin. The depth of the water along the straight baseline appears everywhere to be less than 10 fathoms. The enclosed waters, while forming a major indentation of the Mauritanian coast, do not satisfy the semicircular requirements of a bay. The greatest indentation of the coast, measured perpendicular to the straight baseline, is approximately 34.2 nautical miles. The straight baseline extends over approximately 30 percent of the Mauritanian coast. The low water line forms the baseline for the remaining portions of the coast.

c. MARITIME BOUNDARIES

MAURITANIA-MOROCCO BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

Section 1

The Parties hereto agree that the official boundary established between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco is determined by an imaginary straight line drawn from the point of intersection of the Atlantic coast and the 24th parallel north to the point of intersection of the 23d parallel north and the 13th meridian west; the intersection of this baseline with the present boundary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania constituting the southwestern limit of the boundary of the Kingdom of Morocco.

From this point the boundary follows in a northerly direction the present boundary follows in a northerly direction the present boundary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to a point constituted by the coordinates [on a map attached to the agreement].

Section 2

The official boundary between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco, as determined in Section 1 of this agreement, effectively bounds the surface, air space and subsurface area of the parties hereto. The boundary with regard to the continental shelf is constituted by the 24th parallel north.